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Syrian refugees and other affected populations in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon & Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

The 17-month crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, which escalated in violence and intensity in 2012, has led over 200,000¹ people to flee the country – over half them children and young people – and this could rise to as many as 500,000 by the end of year¹.

Over the past five months, Turkey and Lebanon have seen the levels of refugee outflows **triple**, while Jordan is experiencing a five-fold increase in the number of refugees as of April of 2012. Moreover, countless numbers of Syrian families remain unregistered and living within host communities, who in turn also require assistance. Increasing numbers of Iraqi and Palestinian refugees have also fled Syria.

During mid-August, Iraq saw a sharp increase in the number of refugees registered, up from 9,000 to more than 15,000 people². In Jordan, a spike in numbers of children and their families fleeing prompted the establishment of Za'atari Camp in the north of the country – with capacity for 150,000 refugees. UNICEF has significantly ramped up its response to meet the water, sanitation, health and psychosocial needs of 70,000 persons.

Lebanon has also responded to the rapid influx of refugees, an estimated 80 per cent of whom are residing with host families. Most refugees are concentrating in the north and the Bekaa Valley along the Syria border, which happen to also be the poorest and most under-served regions of the country. The Government of Turkey has, to date, taken care of the majority of the refugee population, and has already reached close to 75,000 people³. The Turkish Government has expressed their concerns in the past about its ability to provide for more than 100,000 refugees.

Indications are that refugee numbers will continue to increase throughout the remainder of 2012, and there will be a need for the UN to significantly scale up its response to support Governments in the sub-region.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

Under the auspices of the UN Syria Regional Response Plan for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, UNICEF is responding in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Health and Nutrition; Child Protection; and Education. The revised UNHCR-led Regional Response Plan anticipated a humanitarian response for 185,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2012. The current refugee outflow looks set to exceed these figures.

Iraq

UNICEF is responding to the needs of children affected directly and indirectly as a result of the current Syria crisis. At Al'Qaim camp, UNICEF and its partners are providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene kits to 4,000 refugees. Child Friendly Space kits, recreation kits and psychosocial kits have been provided to support these essential activities.

Jordan

In Za'atari camp, UNICEF and its partner, the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief, are currently constructing 800 latrines and showers to meet the needs of 20,000 people. Over 20,000 people have thus far benefited from safe WASH facilities, solid waste management, and hygiene and water conservation awareness sessions. Water trucking currently provides 357,000 liters per day to the camp, but will soon be replaced by wells.

In host communities, public wells are being rehabilitated to boost water supply which will benefit 400,000 people. A joint nutrition assessment conducted by UN agencies for children under two years and pregnant and lactating mothers is currently ongoing. In child protection, 6,500 children and parents have benefitted from psychosocial services. Sixteen CFS have been established with Save the Children International, each center catering to 1,000 children. A case management and referral system has also been developed. To date, UNICEF and its partners have assisted the registration of 18,300 school-aged children in affected areas in schools and/or learning programmes; summer camps have been established in 40 public schools in 15 directorates; and 4,000 school bags and several recreation kits have been distributed to schools and CFS.

Lebanon

In Lebanon, UNICEF and partners have provided 16,400 people access to safe drinking water, non-food items, waste management services and hygiene promotion messages. A nutrition assessment of children from 6 to 59 months and pregnant and lactating mothers is ongoing.

¹ UNICEF estimates as many as 500,000 persons outside of Syria could be affected by the crisis by the end of the year (this will be revised as part of the forthcoming UN Syria Regional Response Plan 3).

UNICEF assisted the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in conducting a rapid assessment of the Social Development Centres' (SDCs) needs to determine support for scaling up services for refugees and host communities. Some 3,700 children and over 1,700 caregivers were provided psychosocial support through the establishment of Child-friendly Spaces.

To date, 2,050 vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese children are being supported to reintegrate into formal education in the highly affected areas of the north and the Bekaa Valley. A further 150 schoolteachers have been trained on the 'balanced literacy' approach.

Turkey

A request from the Turkey UN Country Team (UNCT) for funding from the Rapid Response window of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was approved in May 2012. UNICEF Turkey was granted funding to provide safe educational, recreational and psychosocial care for 22,500 children affected by the Syrian crisis, in alignment with the Regional Response Plan. UNICEF procured 159 tents, 100 recreation kits and 100 ECD kits which were handed over to the Turkish Red Crescent to support safe, child-friendly learning environments for Syrian children of different age groups, especially adolescents and youth.

The Government of Turkey is leading the response, and UNICEF Turkey is paying special attention to the monitoring of the situation of women and children in the camps, and to the increasing specific needs of children and adolescents in the areas of education, early childhood development and protection.

Sub-Regional Support

Given the protracted nature of this crisis, its intensification, and the anticipated scale of the required response, a sub-regional support hub has been established to enhance UNICEF's capacity to provide timely, consistent, high quality support to the affected country offices. Technical experts and advisors have ensured leadership, oversight and guidance around key programmatic interventions. Additional support has been provided in communications, human resources, emergency coordination, operations and supply and logistics with over 35 staff drawn from standby partners, surge deployments and short term contracts to support the regional office and countries in the sub region.

The regional office plays an integral role in interagency coordination of the ongoing crisis at the sub regional level in support of both the UN Syria Regional Response Plan and the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan. Prepositioning of supplies has been operationalized with the establishment in 2011 of sixteen long term agreements (LTAs), and the warehousing of supplies for the sub-regional response has been supported by UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IN 2012

The crisis in Syria is affecting a growing number of people outside of Syria. Syrian refugees (registered and unregistered), Iraqi and Palestinian refugees fleeing Syria, and impoverished host communities are all affected. UNICEF estimates as many as 500,000 persons outside of Syria could be affected by the crisis by the end of the year (this will be revised as part of the forthcoming UN Syria Regional Response Plan 3).

Iraq, Jordan Lebanon and Turkey

UNICEF will work in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey with UN partners, key government ministries and NGOs to ensure that:

- **228,000** children <5 receive measles vaccination
- **75,700** children <5 have access to key essential health and nutrition care services
- **309,500** emergency affected people are provided with access to safe water
- **309,500** emergency affected people have access to appropriately designed toilets
- **135,046** children have safe access to community spaces for socializing, play and learning
- **67,900** school-aged children in affected areas in schools/learning programmes
- **67,900** children with access to psycho-social support in education programmes

UNICEF Funding Requirements from 31 August 2012 – 31 December 2012

UNICEF's response to populations in the host countries surrounding Syria is critically underfunded. In order to reach the increasing humanitarian needs of an estimated 500,000 affected persons, more than half of whom are children, UNICEF requires \$74.9 million USD (with a funding gap of \$59.6 million) for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. These needs are aligned to the planning figures for the forthcoming revision of the UN Syria Regional Response Plan III due to be released in October 2012.

A highly mobile refugee population continues to cross the Syrian borders in all directions. The uncertainty of the situation makes it challenging to determine how long and to what extent neighboring countries will be affected. A flexible regional funding mechanism will allow UNICEF to respond immediately in whatever country is affected by the influx of refugees at any one time.

Sector	Original 2012 HAC requirements	Revised HAC requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap*
Health and Nutrition	n/a	5,335,000	223,040	5,111,960
Water and Sanitation	n/a	30,721,000	3,099,920	27,621,080
Child Protection	n/a	10,397,500	1,822,532	8,574,968
Education	n/a	28,475,000	6,594,159	21,880,841
Total	n/a	74,928,500	15,284,801	59,643,699

* Figures reflect funds received as of 31 August 2012 against UN Syria Regional Response Plan. This includes \$3,545,150 USD funding received and currently being allocated against programmes. Pledges are not included. All income figures are provisional.

¹ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

² <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=103>

³ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=224>